PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,

OF MINNESOTA,

AT ITS TWELFTH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, HELD IN THE CITY OF ST. PAUL, COMMENCING OCTOBER 25TH, A.·. L.·. 5864.

FIRST DAY.

At 12 o'clock M., the Most Worshipful Grand Master opened a Master's ☐ in ample form:

M.·. W.·. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. B. F. SMITH, Senior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. W. J. RIGBY, Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. G. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.
W.·. A. HANNA, Senior Grand Deacon.
W.·. W. P. SCOFIELD, Junior Grand Deacon.
W.·. A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

The Grand Master announced the following Committee on Credentials: Bros. Lange, Norton, and Grand Secretary.

The committee reported sixteen ☐ represented, to wit: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 19, 23, 24, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35, 39, 41.

There being no quorum present, the ☐ was called to refreshment until two o'clock, P. M., at which time labor was resumed, and the following additional ☐ were represented, to wit: Nos. 1, 8, 30, 36, 40, 42, 44.

The representatives from a quorum of ☐ being present, the Most Worshipful the Grand ☐ of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, was opened in ample form.

M.·. W.·. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. L. E. THOMPSON, Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. B. F. SMITH, as Senior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. W. T. RIGBY, Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. A. C. SMITH, Past Junior Warden as Grand Treasurer.
R.·. W.·. G. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.
W.·. S. Y. MCMASTERS, Grand Chaplain.
W.·. A. B. CURRY, as Grand Marshal.
W.·. A. HANNA, Senior Grand Deacon.
W.·. W. P. SCOFIELD, as Junior Grand Deacon.
W.·. B. H. LANGLEY, as Grand Pursuivant.
W.·. A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

PAST ELECTIVE GRAND OFFICERS.

R.·. W.·. WM. LEE, Past Junior Grand Warden.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SUBORDINATE ▭.

St. John's ▭, No. 1—L. E. Thompson, Proxy.
St. Paul ▭, No. 3—G. W. Merrill, Worshipful Master.
Chas. Leonard, Senior Warden.
Hennepin ▭, No. 4—Jno. I. Black, Senior Warden.
Ancient Landmark ▭, No. 5—Freeman James, Worshipful Master.
J. H. Mathews, Senior Warden.
Dakota ▭, No. 7—C. H. Lange, Worshipful Master.
O. T. Hayes, Senior Warden.
B. H. Langley, Junior Warden.
Red Wing ▭, No. 8—Chas. Kemp, Junior Warden.
Mantorville ▭, No. 11—G. B. Cooley, Worshipful Master.
Mankato ▭, No. 12—A. Hanna, Worshipful Master.
J. A. Willard, Senior Warden.
B. F. Smith, Junior Warden.
Minneapolis ▭, No. 19—O. B. King, Worshipful Master.
Thos. Gardner, Senior Warden.
J. H. Thompson, Junior Warden.
North Star ▭, No. 23—A. B. Curry, Worshipful Master.
H. Z. Mitchell, Senior Warden.
Wilton ▭, No. 24—H. P. Norton, Proxy.
Clear Water ▭, No. 28—W. T. Rigby, Worshipful Master.
Anoka ▭, No. 30—J. H. Martin, Worshipful Master.
King Hiram ▭, No. 31—E. C. Wells, Worshipful Master.
Star in the East ▭, No. 33, J. W. Morford, Worshipful Master.
Oriental ▭, No. 34—W. P. Scofield, Worshipful Master.
D. L. Davis, Senior Warden.
A. J. Phelps, Junior Warden.
Mt. Moriah ▭, No. 35—J. E. Finch, Senior Warden.
Preston ▭, No. 36—W. T. Wilkins, Worshipful Master.
Fidelity ▭, No. 39—J. C. Ackley, Worshipful Master.
Carnelian ▭, No. 40—S. R. Merrell, Worshipful Master.
Hermon ▭, No. 41—Wm. Bickford, Worshipful Master.
Hope ▭, No. 42—A. J. Snyder, Senior Warden.
King Solomon ▭, No. 44—A. B. Jones, Junior Warden.

Prayer by the W.·. Grand Chaplain.

On motion of Bro. Black,

Voted, That all Master Masons in good standing be invited to take seats in the Grand ▭ during its session.

On motion of R.·. W.·. Bro. Smith,

Voted to dispense with reading of minutes of the last Annual Communication.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master announced the following standing committees:

On Grievances, Bros. L. E. Thompson, B. F. Smith, Freeman James, J. H. Thompson, Wm. Bickford.

On Work of ▭, U.·. D.·. Bros. O. B. King, J. C. Ackley, A. J. Phelps.

On Returns of ▭, Bros. G. B. Cooley, J. I. Black, J. A. Willard.

On Unfinished Business, Bros. A. B. Curry, O. S. Hayes, A. B. Jones.

On Ancient Landmarks, Bros. A. C. Smith, W. T. Rigby, D. L. Davis.

On Visiting Brethren, Bros. J. H. Martin, A. J. Snyder.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

Another year has passed since we were in Grand Convocation assembled, a year of unprecedented pecuniary prosperity to a majority of the ▱ in our jurisdiction. Many who have heretofore manifested a decided opposition to our time-honored Institution have been converted, and from opponents have become active working Masons. We may be permitted to indulge the hope that the increased attention that our Order has obtained is due to the practical workings of Masonry as evinced in the moral character of its members, and the benefits it has dispensed in a conflict that absorbed thousands of lives, and desolated some of the fairest portions of our land.

Again, and for the ninth time, it becomes my duty to render you an account of my stewardship. At our last annual Convocation six charters were granted for new ▱, the last of which numbered forty-four on our rolls, and thirty-nine of which are active working ▱. In such cases where I was unable to attend and constitute the new ▱ in person, I sent a proxy, and each of them have been regularly set at labor.

During the year I have granted dispensations for new ▱ as follows:

Dec. 23, 1863, Evergreen, at Troy, Winona County.
Dec. 23, 1863, Cannon River, Morristown, Rice County.
Feb. 15, 1864, Rising Sun, St. Charles, Winona County.
April 4, Lebanon, St. Peter, Nicollet County.
April 12, Social, Northfield, Rice County.

And renewed the dispensations for Concord and Union ▱, and also that of Northern Light ▭, removing it to the Red River settlements. Application for a charter will be made by each during the present session.

It will be remembered that some discussion was had at our last Communication, relative to a dispensation granted by the then Deputy Grand Master. The committee to whom the subject was referred, recommended, for reasons stated, that the Grand Master be requested to issue a dispensation to the brethren at Northfield. Application was made and the dispensation issued. I visited Northfield during the summer, found the ▭ occupying a room second to but few in the State. Much taste had been displayed in the selection of furniture, and the collars and jewels equaled, with one exception, any in the State. The difficulties attending their attempted start in 1862 seem to have had the effect to cause a determination to leave nothing undone within their power to accomplish, to place them in the front rank of working ▱ in this jurisdiction. From the evidences presented of its usefulness, I strongly recommend that a charter be issued to Social ▭ at Northfield.

In my last communication to the Grand Lodge I reported having withdrawn the charter of Faribault ▭, No. 9, and my reasons for so doing. Among the papers presented to the Grand ▭, at that session, was a petition for the restoration of the charter, and, also, a remonstrance of two of its members against such action by the Grand ▭. The whole matter was referred to the Committee on Grievances; their report will be found on page 483, Proceedings for 1863.

During the winter and spring, I received several petitions from the brethren at Faribault; one for the restoration of the charter, others for a new ▭, &c., evincing an ardent desire of all the brethren, with two exceptions, to have an active working ▭ in their midst. I visited Faribault several times, talked the matter over with the brethren separately and collectively, and, from all the information obtained, judged that I had found the "discordant element" alluded to by the Committee on Grievances.

The third resolution of the committee authorized the Grand Master to restore the charter whenever, "in his opinion, harmony shall have been fully restored." My investigations afforded ample proof, and, to my entire satisfaction, that "harmony" could not be restored, nor the interests of Masonry or the ▭ sustained by restoring the charter and retaining all the members.

It is a disputed question among Masons whether a belief in the authenticity of the Holy Bible is a positive pre-requisite to initiation, or whether the expression of belief constitutes a Masonic offence. There is and ever must be, from the nature of the Institution, a difference between the *teachings* and the *requirements* of Masonry.

Thus, while no question as to the belief in the Holy writings is asked, yet the youngest entered apprentice knows, that among the first teachings are, that "the Bible points out the path that leads to happiness, and is dedicated to God," and that, too, "because it is the inestimable gift of God to man;" and that it should be the rule and guide of his faith and practice. Although a Mason is not *required* by any law of the Order to *reject* a candidate because of his *unbelief* in the Bible, yet I trust that every Mason knowing that a candidate entertained such unbelief, *would* promptly exercise his individual prerogative and *promptly reject* him.

A Master Mason entertaining such views, may not violate any written law of the Order, yet in giving expression to them publicly (particularly if clothed in no mild or unmeasured language,) he brings odium and disgrace upon the whole Fraternity, besides the injury done to the feelings of the brethren. There is such a thing as *uneasiness* in a ▭, that destroys its harmony and usefulness, that cannot be reached by charges or trial. The necessity of providing for such cases appears to have been contemplated in forming our Constitution. Title 9, Sec. 63, relative to the powers of the Grand Master, in paragraph 5th, says: "To suspend a ▭, or a Brother."

Believing that peace and harmony would be restored in Faribault ▭, if the "discordant element" was removed, and that I had found it, I caused certain of its members to be apprised that the charter would be restored to the balance of the members if they would withdraw. The proposition was agreed to, but before any action had been taken the parties changed their minds, and utterly refused, and that in no mild language.

All the other brethren being willing to do anything required by which the ▭ could be restored to its old standing, I concluded to try an experiment. There had recently moved into the town an old Past Master of another jurisdiction, a brother in whose skill, judgment and fidelity I have perfect confidence. I again visited Faribault, convened the members, and, with their concurrence and approbation, placed the charter in his hands, authorizing him to work the ▭, as my proxy, recognizing all the old members but two, whom I suspended from membership, with the understanding that so soon as it was evinced that the experiment was a successful one, and that peace and harmony had been fully restored, I would order an election of officers.

In consequence of my absence from the jurisdiction to so late a period, and as the time provided by their By-Laws was so near, I concluded it best to report the whole matter to the Grand ▭ before acting further. I may here remark, that to all appearances "peace and harmony have been fully restored," and the ▭ is working well as of "yore."

Bro. Dearborn is present as the representative of the ▭, and will report when required.

On page 484, Proceedings of last session, will be found the report of the Committee on Grievances, in the case of Bro. A. C. Dunn, a member of the Blue Earth Valley ▭, No. 27, who had been sentenced to suspension for one year, and who had appealed from that sentence to the Grand ▭. The action had, is detailed as above. Early in January I received a notice that the ▭ had expelled Bro. Dunn, and a few days thereafter I received an appeal from the decision of the ▭, and asking my interference. I sent to the ▭ for a copy of the minutes of the proceedings had in the case, and also for a copy of the evidence.

The grounds of appeal were,

1st. That no copy of charges had been served on him.

2d. That the notice of time of trial required by the Constitution, had not been given him.

3d. The trial was had during his unavoidable absence from home, and of which the ▭ was apprised.

4th. The finding was based upon *ex parte* evidence; and

5th. If any crime had been committed, the sentence was an extraordinary one.

On the receipt of the papers, I appointed a Commission as an Advisory Committee, consisting of Grand and Past Grand officers, to whom I referred the whole of the papers. Their report recommended the reversal of the ac-

tion of the ☐ as unwarranted, from the evidence presented, without reference to the informalities; and, also, the suspension of the ☐.

I adopted the recommendation of the Commission, so far as to reverse the action of the ☐, and to restore Bro. A. C. Dunn, leaving the other question for the action of the Grand ☐.

In the matter of Charles Symonds, on page 484, Proceedings, 1863, I have had no official notice of the action of the ☐, and, of course, have not been called upon to act as contemplated by the resolution.

My correspondence, as heretofore, has been very large, amounting to several hundred communications. I have the satisfaction of knowing that every letter received has been promptly answered. Many applications have been made for dispensations. I have only granted them in cases where I have personal knowledge of the applicant, and believed that it was not merely personal interest or convenience that was consulted.

Very many applications have been made for an authorization to confer two and three degrees upon the same candidate, on the same Communication of the ☐. I have never authorized the conferring of the three degrees on one candidate, upon the same meeting; but where the necessity appeared, I have gone and officiated in person.

Our Constitution makes proficiency and not time the criterion of advancements. A candidate must prove his proficiency, by examination in open ☐, before he can receive an advanced degree, and as no time is prescribed, a candidate may be advanced just as soon as he has learned his lesson. If the officers of ☐ would bear this fact in mind, and, also, the additional one, that they have power to call meetings at pleasure, it would save them the trouble of writing to the Grand Master for a dispensation when none is required.

In the olden time operative Masonry, the youth, no matter as to age, was apprenticed until twenty-one years old, and his indentures only surrendered to him when that period had arrived, proficiency and ability being the objects sought. And none were permitted to work as craftsmen (journeymen,) or to receive wages as such, until they had proved their right, by the production of their canceled indentures. Speculative Masonry has preserved in the Ancient Charges, the old laws of the Operative, and declared them to be binding on the Fraternity everywhere. And, as in speculative Masonry, a candidate cannot be received until twenty-one years of age, so he can only be advanced when he has proved that he has acquired a competent knowledge of the mysteries of the art.

Several Grand ☐ Constitutions prescribe that parties desiring initiation must apply to the ☐ nearest their place of residence, and Masons very generally have adopted the same idea. The question in my mind is one of expediency simply. Our Constitution is silent upon the subject, leaving it, as do the "Old Regulations," and as is the Continental custom, optional with the applicant and the Subordinate ☐. In fact, it is not yet twenty years since a regulation requiring applications to be made to the ☐ nearest the applicant's residence, was adopted.

A Grand ☐ has no authority to legislate for the profane, to say where he shall or shall not apply for initiation; but it is perfectly competent for it to say to its Subordinates, you shall not receive applications other than of those whose residence is nearer your ☐ than that of another.

The theory of Masonry requires that moral character and standing in the community must be the basis for the acceptance of candidates; any regulation requiring applications to be made to the nearest ☐, is founded upon the presumption that the candidate would be there best known.

The question has incidentally come up at several of our former sessions. I gave it as my opinion that ☐ should be allowed to receive the applications of those who consulted their own convenience in the selection, assuming that candidates would be best known where it was most convenient for them to apply.

This view of the case has at all times been concurred in, and has been the policy in our jurisdiction.

Suppose a case. Two ☐, A and B, located any distance apart, Mr. ———, whose residence is, perhaps, some miles nearer to A than to B, yet all his busi-

ness relations is in the place where B is located, he is there well known, but is not known to the members of A, to which ☐ should he apply? Most assuredly to the one where known.

I am aware that such ruling gives the ☐ in the cities and country towns a pecuniary advantage, and it is the duty of the Grand ☐ and the Grand Officers to do all consistent with the general good to sustain and foster young and weak ☐.

While our population was sparse, and the ☐ few and far apart, the policy has worked well, and no complaints were made. But now that our ☐ have become so numerous—a ☐ in nearly every town in the State—expediency might require a regulation on the subject. I have called your attention to this subject, as during the year, (and for the first time since I have occupied the position of Grand Master,) the question was formally presented.

Two ☐, each claiming jurisdiction over a candidate, jointly presented a statement of the case. I decided it as I had heretofore done in Grand ☐. My decision (as has ever been the case in our ☐) was acquiesced in without any exhibition of dissatisfaction, and yet I surmised that one of the ☐ would have been better pleased with a different opinion.

Entertaining the opinion that it is perfectly competent for the Grand ☐ to make regulations as to the reception of applications, I recommend the subject to your consideration.

I have, as has been my custom in years past, visited as many ☐ as my health would admit. Three months of my time have been thus occupied the past year. In fact, almost my whole time, as during the past eight years, has been taken up with Masonic duties, and that, too, without any pecuniary consideration; I allude to the latter because very many of the brethren have expressed surprise when informed of the fact, they supposing that some pecuniary compensation was afforded.

In my visitations, I notice the prevalence of a feeling of permanency among the ☐ not heretofore evinced. Several of the ☐ have purchased buildings, others have secured the right, and are putting on an additional story, thus acquiring a permanent home. This is a very happy feature, and I hope will be emulated by all our ☐. Secure your own homes, and be at the mercy of no one.

Those who have not been able to purchase or build, are getting the best halls in their respective localities, and fitting them up with the necessary furniture, and that of better quality.

Every ☐ should have a Seal. Seals are almost as necessary as Jewels or Deacon's rods. It has the appearance of negligence, this affixing to an official document a note stating, "This ☐ has no Seal." See to it, brethren, that next year it may be reported that every ☐ has Jewels and a Seal.

The Masonic Fraternity seeks not by persuasive language to induce men to join it; it offers no inducements to the ambitious or worldling, but it is a voluntary association seeking to do good to man. Each and every Mason has said "That he freely and voluntarily offers himself as a candidate," and "That he is prompted to do so by a sincere desire to be serviceable to his fellow men;" he voluntarily promises by the pledge of the *right hand*—a pledge that has been from the earliest period of the world's history, and among all nations, deemed a sacred token of truth and fidelity—to be governed by the laws of the Association. And yet, notwithstanding the sacredness of the pledge, and its voluntary assumption, we are often reminded that Masons forget that they are Masons, and that even the law of brotherly love, which is the basis of the Masonic code, is violated, the sacred pledge proving but a feeble restraint, or none at all.

Grand ☐ are consequently obliged to enact penal codes, and prescribe rules for the trial of offenders against the laws of the Association. Such rules should be plain, simple, and adapted to the comprehension of the whole Fraternity.

The penal code, and manner of conducting trials under it, is a subject of great importance, and is one that requires careful consideration.

I am, and ever have been, opposed to tinkering Constitutions; amendments proposed are generally offered to suit special cases, a feature in the Grand ☐ which is frequently a source of discord.

Fortunately for us, that rock has been avoided in this jurisdiction. Our sessions are necessarily short, and sufficient time is not had for investigation during the sessions, and we are apt to give more consideration to the parties proposing a measure than to the measure itself. The evidence of want of time is frequently furnished by reports of committees, commencing with, "Owing to the limited time afforded, your committee have been unable to give the subject the attention its importance demands," and the very next year the subject comes up again; it is found that a mistake has been made, the decision is reversed, or an enactment repealed. All such difficulties can be provided against by allowing a committee upon any matter of importance to report at the following session.

Experience has proved that Title 6, of our Constitution, "Of Trials and its Incidents," requires amendments. If we must have such provisions, let us have the best we can get, and avail ourselves of the experience of the olden Grand [illegible]. I therefore recommend that a committee be appointed at this session to revise Title 6 of our Constitution, to report at the next session.

The system of work and lectures adopted at our last session, is becoming conformed to by the [illegible], and it is hoped that the resolution will not become a dead letter upon our records. Our [illegible] have never exhibited any stubbornness or disinclination to comply with the resolutions or recommendations of the Grand [illegible], and I have no doubt such have been the means taken to disseminate the work and lectures, that in the course of the present year all the [illegible] will have learned and adopted the prescribed ritual; if so, we shall present an anomaly to the world.

Every Grand [illegible] in the United States, and, I might say, in the world, has, at some period, been exercised relative to the subject of uniformity. Most of the Grand Masters have, at greater or less length, alluded to the matter in their reports to their Grand [illegible]. Unlike other fashions, this does not seem to wear out; other matters may, for a time, engross attention, but only for a time. It would seem that a century's attention would have either accomplished something, or satisfied the Masonic mind of its fallacy.

I am, and long have been, of the opinion that perfect uniformity in lectures, is unattainable; or if it can be, it cannot be preserved if memory alone is depended upon. If not in a single jurisdiction, how can it be made general? I can perceive no particular advantage in a letter uniformity in every jurisdiction. I cannot understand how it would enhance the usefulness of the Craft, or facilitate the interchange of visits, or courtesies, between the members of different jurisdictions. But in deference to the views of a very large number of Masons, (although I think in a minority,) I would be willing (to settle the question) to unite in any open, well considered plan to accomplish the result. I would suggest a Convention of Grand Masters, to be held at the same time and place with the meeting of the Grand Encampment of the United States, inviting the Grand Master of Canada. Should they agree upon a general system, then to present it to his Grand [illegible] for their consideration. If such Convention was held, my idea would be:

1st. To abandon the American lectures, (preserving the work intact,) and the adoption of the English system; or

2d. To arrange a new system from both; or,

3d. To adopt simply a catechism for the examination of visitors.

Masons everywhere are wedded to the system of lectures first taught them; not being aware of the differences in phraseology, they imagine that the language is everywhere the same; finding their mistake, the next proposition is, that the system they had learned was the correct one.

This feeling in the Masonic mind would be one great obstacle in the way of general uniformity. As of individuals, so, too, of Grand [illegible], each claims that their system is the best, and probably no system in use by any of the American Grand [illegible] would be acceptable to each of the others. Uniformity, then, can only be attained by compromise, and with that idea the *Hemming Lectures*, with some slight modifications, presents the best system. I remark again, that while I believe perfect uniformity to be Utopian, yet I am willing to unite in any open movement, one that may be known to all the Craft, having that single object in view.

I was applied to by members of each of the regiments first formed in this

State, for a dispensation for what is termed a "Military ▭." I gave the matter a careful consideration, and became fully satisfied that the benefits of such ▭ would not be at all commensurate with the evils resulting. Desiring to gratify the brethren, yet my sense of duty to the whole Craft forbid the exercise of the power. Many of the brethren went away entertaining hard feelings towards me, but each and every one after witnessing the operation of such ▭, in Kentucky, Tennessee, &c., commended my action, and have taken especial pains, by letter and otherwise, to inform me of the fact. As an illustration of the workings of some of such ▭, I have it in writing from several brethren, that in several instances petitions were presented, acted upon, and the three degrees conferred on the same evening—that degrees were conferred with reference to the jurisdiction from whence the candidates hailed—that citizens of Kentucky, Tennessee, &c., residents in the vicinity of the camp were made—that as many as eight candidates were initiated the one and the same evening—and that the funds collected were used in having a "good time" afterwards. Connected with these facts came the information, that parties from this jurisdiction were about making application for initiation.

I immediately wrote to the Grand Master who had granted the dispensation, but received no reply. I also took measures to have the members of Minnesota regiments notified that none of them receiving degrees in such ▭, without the permission or concurrence of their home ▭ having jurisdiction, would be recognized as Masons in this jurisdiction.

During the past year I received the information that several parties from this State had been made, notwithstanding my notice. I at once wrote to the present Grand Master of Illinois, and promptly received an answer that it would be attended to; since that time I have heard no complaints. Some of the parties thus made, had been rejected in home ▭.

The facilities for obtaining the degrees at home, are amply sufficient, and in no instance has a worthy candidate, who really wanted to learn, been obliged to leave the State half made, in consequence of the stringency of our requirements.

The Grand ▭ of Iowa and Wisconsin, each at their late sessions, took action on this subject, matters were reported to each which indicated, if possible, a more unmasonic course than that which I have detailed. I particularly commend to you the report of M.·. W.·. A. B. Alden to the G.·. L.·. of Wisconsin, and the action of that G.·. L.·. I presume that our Committee on Foreign Correspondence will notice the matter.

But we may reasonably hope that our National difficulties are so nearly terminated that no new applications will be made in behalf of new regiments in the field.

I am not aware of any other matter requiring legislation at this session. Nothing has occurred to mar the peace and harmony of the ▭; increased interest is evinced to become not only proficient in the work and lectures, conversant with the jurisdiction of the Order, but well versed in its symbolism, traditions and history. And to these latter it has been my especial aim to draw the attention of the brethren. It has sometimes been said that I am not a good ritualist, because I have not confined myself to any particular sectional ritual in the conferring or explanation of degrees.

I have heard recited, perhaps, every ritual in use, but at a very early period of my Masonic life I became convinced that none of them were of sufficient importance to exclude from study the science of Masonry; nay, that the science, the symbolism, the religion of Masonry, covered up by allegories, were of far more importance than the words of modern rituals, and hence, while sustaining and inculcating the ritual of our own jurisdiction, my endeavor has been to make thinking Masons, to implant within them a spirit of investigation, and as every ceremony and practice must be sustained by a good and sufficient reason, to induce the brethren to examine for that reason themselves, and not to adopt and inculcate theories, because some distinguished individual says so or so, or because it is found printed in some monitor or hand-book.

The old adage, "that anything worth doing at all is worth doing well," is applicable to our Institution. To be proficient in the various means or methods of recognition is not all there is to Masonry; the Institution affords matter for the study of a lifetime.

A legend is recited as having occurred at Jerusalem; investigation proves that a similar legend was brought to Jerusalem by the Temple-builders; further investigation proves that it came to the Temple-builders from Greece and Rome—pursuing the investigation, it is found that a similar legend was the basis of the mysteries of the Ancient Egyptians, who obtained it from India, where it had spread from the plains of Shinar, thus tracing it up through ages to the antediluvian world. It is found that in every nation the world over, in every age, a similar legend was recited to the initiates. Such a traditional legend could not have obtained such universality, unless it had some great primitive starting point when the world was new—in its infancy.

The universal esoteric explanation of the legend was immortality and resurrection, which dogmas were taught nowhere else.

Pursuing the subject, the Masonic investigator becomes convinced, which conviction amounts to almost a certainty, that Masonry was the original religion of man. That veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols, he finds the story of the fall of man, his expulsion from Paradise in consequence of his sin, and the death of Abel; the enunciation of immortality and resurrection, and the necessity of mediation and regeneration.

Brethren, in these last words I have summed up my theory of the original design of our institution, and contains the reasons of my desire and endeavors to excite a spirit of investigation. As this spirit becomes prevalent, Masons will have a higher veneration for the Order—will practice and be governed by its teachings—and will ennoble it in the estimation of the virtuous and the good.

Bro. A. C. Smith moved the address be referred to a select committee of three, which motion prevailed, and Bros. A. C. Smith, W. J. Wilkins, and Freeman James were appointed such committee.

The committee subsequently reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the address of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master be referred as follows:

So much thereof as relates to Faribault ▭ and the matter of A. C. Dunn's appeal, to the Committee on Grievances.

So much thereof as relates to the subject of the penal code, to a select committee of three, to report at the next session of this G.·. ▭.

So much thereof as relates to the general uniformity of work in the United States, to a select Committee of three; and

So much thereof as relates to jurisdiction of Subordinate ▭, to a select committee of three.

The Grand Master appointed,

As the first of said select committees, Bros. W. T. Wilkins, S. R. Merrell, and W. P. Scofield.

And as the second of said select committees, Bros. E. C. Wells, G. W. Merrill, and H. Z. Mitchell.

The Grand ▭ was thereupon called to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday Morning, 10 O'Clock, October 26.

The Grand ▭ resumed labor, the M.·. W.·. Grand Master presiding.

Present, the same officers and representatives as yesterday, and the following additional representatives:

Cataract ▭, No. 2—John A. Armstrong, Worshipful Master.
M. W. Getchell, Senior Warden.
Hokah ▭, No. 17—D. L. Clements, Worshipful Master.
Winona ▭, No. 18—P. P. Hubbell, Proxy.
Rochester ▭, No. 21—C. H. Lindsley, Worshipful Master.
Western Star ▭, No. 26—John Brownsill, Senior Warden.
Mystic Tie ▭, No. 37—Thomas McManus, Worshipful Master.

R.·. W.·. Bro. Lindsley, S.·. G.·. W.·., took his station in the West. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Bro. A. C. Smith offered the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That section 79, of the regulations of this Grand ▭, be suspended so far as necessary to admit, as a member of this Communication, Bro. J. H. White, a proxy for Caledonia ▭, No. 20, he not having arrived at the rank of Warden.

And a call of ▭ being ordered upon the motion to adopt, there were, Grand Officers, ayes 2, noes 2; ▭ ayes 34, noes 44.

So the resolution was not adopted.

The following reports were received:

Your committee to whom was referred the Returns of ▭ would respectfully report that they have had the same under examination, and find them correct as now returned, with the several amounts due the Grand ▭ from the respective Subordinate ▭, as follows:

St. John's, No. 1,	$25 00
Cataract, No. 2,	24 00
St. Paul, No. 3,	42 50
Hennepin, No. 4,	103 00
Ancient Landmark, No. 5,	96 50
Dakota, No. 7,	66 00
Mantorville, No. 11,	18 00
Mankato, No. 12,	73 50
Hokah, No. 17,	36 00
Winona, No. 18,	115 50
Minneapolis, No. 19,	43 00
Caledonia, No. 20,	25 50
Rochester, No. 21,	86 50
North Star, No. 23,	80 00
Wilton, No. 24,	41 00
Clear Water, No. 28,	22 50
Morning Star, No. 29,	
Anoka, No. 30,	30 00
King Hiram, No. 31,	21 00
Star in the East, No. 33,	47 50
Oriental, No. 34,	23 00
Preston, No. 36, (Oct. 1st, 1862, to Oct., 1864.)	62 50
Mystic Tie, No. 37,	43 50
Washington, No. 38,	25 50
Fidelity, No. 39,	74 00
Carnelian, No. 40,	38 50
Hermon, No. 41,	15 00
Hope, No. 42	22 50
King Solomon, No. 44,	41 00
Social, U.·. D.·.,	21 00
Concord, U.·. D.·.,	5 00
Evergreen U.·. D.·.,	56 00
Union, U.·. D.·.,	48 50

G. B. Cooley,
John I. Black,
J. A. Willard. } Committee.

The Committee on Work of ▭ U.·. D.·., would respectfully report that they have examined the work of the following ▭, viz: Concord, at Cleveland, Le Sueur county. Union, at Le Sueur, Le Sueur county. Social, at Northfield, Rice county. Evergreen, at Troy, Winona county.

Your committee find the work of these ▭ substantially correct, and are satisfied that the petitioners are duly qualified to fill their respective stations in a manner creditable to themselves, and reflecting honor on our ancient and honorable Institution.

In regard to dues of Social ▭, for degrees conferred under dispensation issued by the Deputy G.·. M.·., but not recognized by the Grand ▭, your Committee are of the opinion, that from all the facts in the case, the same should be remitted. Your Committee would call the attention of these ▭ to the requirements of the Grand ▭ with reference to applications for advancement, as in the records of one of the ▭ nothing at all is mentioned concerning the examination of candidates in open ▭, and it is mentioned only occasionally in the records of the other two.

With these exceptions, your Committee approve the work of the above mentioned ▭, and believing that these irregularities will be promptly corrected when the ▭ are advised of them, and having been informed that the work of Rising Sun ▭ has been forwarded to the Grand ▭, but not yet received so as to come before your Committee, we would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That Charters be granted and issued to Concord, Social, Evergreen, and Union ▭, upon their depositing the fees required by the Constitution of the Grand ▭; and to Rising Sun ▭, upon the same conditions, provided their work shall meet the approval of the Grand Master.

(Signed) O. B. KING, J. C. ACKLEY, A. J. PHELPS. } Committee.

The report was concurred in and the resolution adopted.

Your Committee, to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as relates to uniformity of work throughout the United States, have had the same under consideration, and recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, A uniformity of work in Masonry in the United States, arrived at in an open and Masonic manner, is desirable,

Resolved, That this Grand ▭ is in favor of a Convention of Grand Masters of the several States, who shall recommend a uniform system of work for adoption by the several Grand ▭.

W. T. WILKINS, S. R. MERRELL, WM. P. SCOFIELD. } Committee.

The report was concurred in and the resolution adopted.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's Annual Address as relates to the jurisdiction of Subordinate ▭, beg leave to report that they concur in the recommendation of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master, and recommend the adoption of the following resolutions by the Grand ▭:

Resolved, That the jurisdiction of each Subordinate ▭ within the jurisdiction of this Grand ▭, shall extend to one half the distance to the nearest ▭ in every direction.

Resolved, That no Subordinate ▭ shall entertain an application for the degrees in Masonry from any person residing within the jurisdiction of

another Subordinate ▭, but after an applicant has been balloted for and accepted, the ▭ so accepting him may consent to his receiving the degrees and holding membership in another ▭.

E. C. WELLS,
H. Z. MITCHELL,
G. W. MERRILL. } Committee.

Pending the discussion upon a motion to adopt, on motion of Bro. Hayes, it was

Resolved, That the Grand ▭ proceed to the annual election of officers immediately after the resolutions now pending be disposed of.

The Grand ▭ was called to refreshment for an hour, when it was again called to labor, and the discussion of the report of the Committee on ▭ jurisdiction resumed.

The report was finally concurred in and the resolution was adopted.

The hour for the election of officers having arrived, the Grand Master remarked:

Brethren of the Grand ▭, nine times I have been elected to the office and ten years I have served as Grand Master. From the organization of the Grand ▭, I have been honored with official position. Of the little band who participated in the organization of this Grand ▭, I alone am present and but two others remain members. To keep posted as to the current Masonic events at home and abroad—to answer the numerous questions in Masonic jurisprudence propounded day after day—to visit the ▭ as required by the Constitution, see that the work is preserved and that harmony prevails, requires an amount of labor and time in the preparation and practice, that cannot be appreciated except by those who have gone through it. I have endeavored to do what I conceived to be my duty, and in so doing have neglected my pecuniary and family interests to such an extent that I am obliged to positively decline to have my name used for re-election. Doubtless my mantle will fall on one fully competent to discharge the interesting, as well as onerous duties of the position, and I bespeak for him the same generous confidence and Masonic obedience which has ever been extended to me.

The Grand ▭ proceeded to the election with the following result:

Geo. W. Prescott, was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master.
L. E. Thompson, was re-elected Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.
E. C. Wells, was elected Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden.
A. B. Curry, was elected Grand Junior Warden.
Geo. L. Otis, was elected Grand Treasurer.
A. T C. Pierson, was elected Grand Secretary.

Bros. S. R. Merrell, Kemp and Leonard were appointed a Committee to prepare a Pay Roll for this session.

The Committee on Grievances made the following report:

Your Committee to whom was referred that portion of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address relating to the matter of Bro. A. C. Dunn, against whom charges had been preferred for unmasonic conduct, have examined the proceedings of Blue Earth Valley ▭ No. 27, had therein, and the proceedings of the M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. on appeal by him.

It appears to your committee that the ▭ has not conformed to the requirements of Title 6, Grand ▭ Constitution, in very many particulars, to the injury of the accused. Further, the testimony sent up to the Grand ▭ does not show that any Masonic offence has been committed by the accused, and the action of the ▭ in expelling the accused, on a re-submission of the matter by this Grand ▭ after the adoption of the resolutions appearing on pages 27 and 28 of Grand ▭ Proceedings for 1863, was in defiance of the authority and instructions of this Grand ▭, and contumacious, and should receive the condemnation of this Grand ▭.

Your committee, believing from the matters thus brought before them, that the interests of the Craft require men of more experience and a better knowledge of Masonic law and usages, and more deeply imbued with the objects of the Order, than have been evidenced by the transactions of Blue Earth Valley ▭, as brought before this Grand ▭, beg leave to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the action of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master in reversing the sentence of Blue Earth Valley ▭ No. 27, expelling Bro. A. C. Dunn for unmasonic conduct, and in restoring Bro. Dunn, be and the same is hereby approved.

And for the reasons above stated, and it also appearing that Blue Earth Valley ▭ No. 27 has failed to make report to this Grand ▭ of its work, or to pay its Grand ▭ dues, for more than two years last past, contrary to the regulations of the Grand ▭,

Resolved, That the M.·. W.·. Grand Master be authorized to demand from said ▭ their Charter and furniture; and said ▭ is declared suspended until the next Grand Annual Communication.

L. E. THOMPSON,
F. JAMES,
W. BICKFORD. } Committee.

The report was concurred in and the resolutions were adopted:

Your Committee to whom was referred that portion of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's Address relating to Faribault ▭, No. 9, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully beg leave to report: That in the opinion of your Committee there is in Faribault the material necessary to keep up and sustain a ▭ which will reflect credit upon itself and the Fraternity, and the "discordant element" referred to in the Grand Master's Address is not of such magnitude but the ▭ can purge itself and create the harmony they seem to desire; therefore be it

Resolved, That the action of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master, as detailed in his Address, be, and the same is hereby approved; that the Charter of the said ▭ be restored, and that Faribault ▭, No. 9, do at once proceed to prefer charges against and try the brothers suspended by the Grand Master.

L. E. THOMPSON,
F. F. SMITH,
F. JAMES,
W. BICKFORD. } Committee.

The report was concurred in and the resolutions were adopted:

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances beg leave to report, that a Communication from Charles Symonds has been submitted to your Committee, asking to be restored to the privileges of Masonry.

Your Committee are of opinion that the matters embraced in said Communication were acted upon by this Grand ▭ at its last annual Com-

munication, and that the action then had is all that is required of this Grand Body.

L. E. THOMPSON,
B. F. SMITH,
F. JAMES,
W. BICKFORD. } Committee.

The following brethren were appointed as a Committee on so much of the Grand Master's Address as refers to the penal Code of this jurisdiction: L. E. Thompson, G. L. Otis, A. C. Smith.

The Committee on Pay Roll reported the following, which was concurred in and the several amounts ordered paid.

PAY ROLL OF MEMBERS.

NAME OF LODGE.	No. Lodge.	No. of Days.	Per diem.	Mileage.	Total.	Dues Paid G. ▭	Amount to be paid Delegates.	TO WHOM PAID.
Saint John's,	1	2	$6 00	$3 00	$9 00	$25 00	$9 00	L. E. Thompson.
Cataract,	2	2	6 00	1 00	7 00	94 00	7 00	J. Armstrong.
Saint Paul	3	2	6 00		6 00	42 50	6 00	G. W. Merrill.
Hennepin,	4	2	6 00	1 00	7 00	103 00	7 00	Jno. J. Black.
Ancient Landmark,	5	2	6 00		6 00	96 50	6 00	F. James.
Dakota,	7	2	6 00	6 00	12 00	66 00	12 00	C. H. Lange.
Red Wing,	8	2	6 00	10 00	16 00			
Mantorville,	11	2	6 00	18 00	24 00	18 00	18 00	G. B. Cooley.
Mankato,	12	2	6 00	14 00	20 00	73 50	20 00	A. Hanna.
Hokah,	17	2	6 00	20 00	26 00	56 00	26 00	D. L. Clements.
Winona,	18	2	6 00	16 00	22 00	115 50	22 00	P. P. Hubbell.
Minneapolis,	19	2	6 00	1 00	7 00	43 00	7 00	O. B. King.
Rochester,	21	2	6 00	17 00	23 00	86 50	23 00	C. H. Lindsley.
North Star	23	2	6 00	13 50	19 50	80 00	19 50	A. B. Curry.
Wilton,	24	2	6 00	13 00	19 00	41 00	19 00	H. P. Norton.
Western Star,	26	2	6 00	21 00	27 00	39 00	27 00	John Brownsill.
Clear Water,	28	2	6 00	11 50	17 50	22 50	17 50	W. P. Rigby.
Anoka,	30	2	6 00	3 00	9 00	30 00	9 00	John H. Martin.
King Hiram,	31	2	6 00	9 00	15 00	21 00	15 00	Edward C. Wells.
Star in the East,	33	2	6 00	10 00	16 00	31 00	16 00	J. W. Morford.
Oriental,	34	2	6 00	7 50	13 50	23 00	13 50	W. P. Scofield.
Mt. Moriah,	35	...						
Preston	36	2	6 00	24 00	30 00	62 50	30 00	W. T. Wilkins.
Mystic Tie,	37	2	6 00	13 00	19 00	43 50	19 00	Thos. McManus.
Fidelity,	39	2	6 00	21 00	27 00	74 00	27 00	J. C. Ackley.
Carnelian,	40	2	6 00	11 00	17 00	38 50	17 00	S. R. Merrell.
Hermon,	41	2	6 00	11 00	17 00	15 00	15 00	Wm. Bickford.
Hope,	42	2	6 00	10 00	16 00	22 50	16 00	A. J. Snyder.
King Solomon,	44	2	6 00	5 00	11 00	41 00	11 00	A. B. Jones.
Caledonia,	10	2	6 00	22 00	28 00	25 30	25 50	Jas. H. White.

The Grand Secretary reported the amount of money in his hands, and in consequence of the continued absence of the Grand Treasurer, asked the appointment of a committee to examine the Secretary and Treasurer's books during the recess of this Grand ▭. It was accordingly *ordered*, that the Grand Secretary and Treasurer elect be such committee, and report at the next Annual Communication.

The Grand ▭ was called to refreshment for one hour, at the expiration of which, labor was resumed.

Bro. M. W. Getchell presented the following communication, which, on motion of Bro. Hubbell, was ordered to be spread upon the records and printed with the Proceedings of this Grand ▭.

To the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of Minnesota:

Brethren:—I deem it proper, considering the circumstances of the case, that a report should be made to this Grand ▭ of the death and burial of Brother Charles P. Clark, who died at Fort Rice, D. T., on the 8th of July last. Brother Clark was with the North Western Indian Expedition, traveling for his health. When he became conscious that he was fast approaching that "country from whose bourn no traveler returns," and that instead of restored vigor a grave would mark the terminus of his western journey, he expressed the wish that the place of his rest might be hallowed by the performance of our solemn burial service. Well known to many of us as a Mason, it was deemed right and proper to accede to this request; and accordingly, when soon after we were called upon to follow his remains to the "narrow house," a ▭ of Emergency, over which I was called upon to preside, was convened, and on the 9th day of July, 1864, the body of Brother Charles P. Clark was consigned to mother earth with due Masonic ceremony, seventy-eight Masons being present.

I may here add, that Bro. Clark was the first white man that died at Fort Rice, and that his was the second Masonic burial in that Western wild—Bro. F. H. Beaver, a volunteer aid on the Staff of Brig. Gen. Sibley, killed in the engagement with the Indians near Camp Slaughter, in 1863, having been buried in due Masonic form.

Fraternally submitted,

M. W. GETCHELL.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master then proceeded to install the Grand Master elect, M.·. W.·. Geo. W. Prescott, and prefaced the installation ceremonies with the observation, that it was the first instance on record, where the Grand Master could say in installing his successor in office, that he had presided at his initiation; had conferred upon him all his degrees and orders; and had installed him Master of his ▭; Grand Secretary of the Grand ▭; High Priest of his Chapter; Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter; Grand High Priest of the State, and was then about to invest him with a jewel indicative of a still higher position, that of Grand Master of Masons, which was the case in this instance.

M.·. W.·. Geo. W. Prescott was then conducted to the East and saluted as the Grand Master of Masons for the State of Minnesota, with Grand Honors.

By invitation of the Grand Master, P.·. G.·. M.·. Pierson proceeded to install

R.·. W.·. L. E. Thompson, of Stillwater, Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. E. C. Wells, of Belle Plaine, Grand Senior Warden.
R.·. W.·. A. B. Curry, of St. Cloud, Grand Junior Warden.
R.·. W.·. Geo. L. Otis, of St. Paul, Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Master then installed

R.·. W.·. A. T. C. Pierson, of St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

And announced the following appointments:

W.·. Bro. Rev. S. Y. McMasters, of St. Paul, Grand Chaplain.
W.·. " Chas. Benson, of Winona, Grand Master.
W.·. " F. Joss, of Red Wing, Grand Senior Deacon.
W.·. " H. P. Newton, of Wilton, Grand Junior Deacon.
W.·. " A. Richardson, of St. Paul, Grand Tyler.

And proceeded to install such as were present, and ordered that the others should be installed in the ▭ of which each was respectively a member.

On motion of Bro. L. E. Thompson it was unanimously

Resolved, That M.·. W.·. A. T. C. Pierson, late Grand Master, be and he is hereby appointed Grand Lecturer for this Grand ▭.

On motion of Bro. Rigby it was ordered :

That one hundred dollars be paid to the Grand Secretary ; fifteen dollars to the Grand Chaplain, and fifteen dollars to the Grand Tyler, for their services the past year.

On motion of Bro. Curry it was ordered

That Bro. James H. White, sent as proxy for Caledonia ▭, No. 20, be allowed per diem and mileage under the same restriction as members of the Grand ▭ representing Subordinate ▭.

There being no further business, the Grand ▭ was closed in ample form.

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *Grand Master*.

C. W. CARPENTER, *Grand Secretary*.